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ADD AID TRADE, WASHINGTON (UPI-139)

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TONIGHT REJECTED LIBSCOMB'S CHARGE THAT IT HAD "MISLED THE PUBLIC." THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT ITS ACTION WAS TAKEN IN "CONSULTATION" WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, DEFENSE AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES INCLUDING "THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY."

LIBSCOMB SAID A CHECK OF SEVERAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SHOWED THAT THEY WERE NOT CONSULTED.

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SAID THAT IT CONSULTED WITH THE [redacted] AS WELL AS WITH THE "DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WHICH HAS JURISDICTION FOR THE SEVERAL AGENCIES QUESTIONED BY THE CONGRESSMEN."

THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT EMPHASIZED "THAT THE ITEMS WHICH WERE DECONTROLLED LAST OCTOBER WERE NON-STRATEGIC. THE JET AIRCRAFT ENGINES, THE DIESEL ENGINES AND MACHINE TOOLS CITED BY REP. LIBSCOMB WERE, IN FACT, NOT REMOVED FROM THE SPECIFIC LICENSE CONTROL LIST FOR EASTERN EUROPE. THE RIFLE CLEANING COMPOUND, ALSO CITED, IS AN ORDINARY CONSUMER ITEM."

1/17--JJ705PES

17 JAN 1967

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